



Cost of living allowance (COLA)



**Operational Support Team
United States Army Financial
Management Command**

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What is COLA

- As a service member, you can expect to be stationed virtually anywhere in the country. During your career, you are likely to be assigned to a variety of low-, moderate- and high-cost locations. Although private sector pay often reflects the local cost-of-living, military basic pay tables do not vary based on location. To help offset the effects of higher cost areas, military servicemembers may be eligible for a Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA). COLA is designed to compensate for being stationed in certain "high-cost" locations in the continental United States (CONUS).



COLA Eligibility

- You qualify for COLA under any of these conditions:
 - You are assigned to a high-cost area in the Continental United States (CONUS). As of this writing, there are less than 30 such locations (military housing areas, or MHAs) in the U.S.
 - You are assigned to an unaccompanied tour of duty outside the continental United States if the primary dependent of the member resides in a high cost area in the continental United States.
 - It is determined that your primary dependent must reside in a high cost area in the continental United States due to your duty location or other circumstances.
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COLA Details

- ✘ CONUS COLA is based on the zip code of your duty station, not your home address.
 - ✘ CONUS COLA is a **taxable** allowance; an amount is added to cover an average income tax rate
 - ✘ COLA is computed separately for members with and without dependents
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OCONUS COLA

Joint Federal Travel Regulation Volume 1 Chapter 9

46 COLA ENTRY-OPEN-DT 110301 96 01 2 CNTRL-CODE 0 ACTN 01 START
110301

ENTLMT-MM 130.50 ENTLMT 269.70 ENTLMT-NM 269.70 DAILY-RATE
8.700000

NR-DEPN-COLA 0 JTR-LCTN GE001

0 for service member
9 for dependent
1-8 number of command sponsored dependents

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS

DAILY RATE FROM

Location code

JWMM TABLE 265

(this will change almost

every to weeks causing

many closed lines)



CONUS COLA

Joint Federal Travel Regulation Volume 1 Chapter 8



- CONUS COLA is a **TAXABLE** supplemental allowance designed to help offset higher prices in high-cost locations in CONUS that exceed the costs in an average CONUS location by 8 percent or more. The program affects over 35,000 Service Members in 27 Military Housing Areas (MHAs).
- If Service Member is deployed this Taxable allowance is covered under Combat Zone Tax Exclusion and will result in no tax liability to the Service Member.

51 CONUS COLA* ENTRY-OPEN-DT 100101 02 05 1 CNTRL-CODE 0 ACTN 04
START

100101 ENT 0-member receiving single BAQ
ZIP-CODE 1- member receiving dependent rate BAQ and
20001 accompanied by authorized dependents
2- single BAQ (another person providing
support for dependent)

ACCOM 1



CONUS COLA



To verify if service member is due CONUS COLA go to

<https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/conusCalc.cfm>



Dual Cost of Living Allowances (COLA)

Joint Federal Travel Regulations ,Volume 1, Chapter 8&9

FID 47

A member may be authorized dual COLA at the with-dependent rate based on the dependent's location and the without-dependent rate at the member's PDS if dependents are command sponsored and authorized/ approved for advance or delayed travel thru the Secretarial (by either the Secretary Concerned or the Secretarial Process at Service discretion) process pars. U9105-A, U9130-A, U9205-G, U10412-B and U10412-C).



DUAL COLA

Dual Payment of Overseas COLA and CONUS COLA.

A member assigned outside CONUS may be paid overseas COLA at the applicable without dependent rate and CONUS COLA at the with dependent rate for the high cost area where the primary dependent resides. CONUS COLA is only payable if there are no command sponsored dependents residing with the member. At no time will overseas COLA and CONUS COLA be paid concurrently at the with dependent rate. Dual payment of CONUS COLA is rarely authorized in CONUS as dependents are authorized to accompany the member PCSing to a CONUS PDS.



Dual COLA Situation

DUAL COLA situation Service Member PCS's from New York City to Japan
Non-Dependent Tour. Service member will not have a "46" line.

47 DUAL COLA* ENTRY-OPEN-DT 100616 15 06 2 CNTRL-CODE 0 ACTN Z4 START
100616 ENTLMT-MM 67.21 ENTLMT 138.90 ENTLMT-NM 138.90 DAILY-RATE
4.48067 NR-DEPN-COLA 9 JTR-LCTN JA061

47-DUAL COLA* ENTRY-OPEN-DT 100612 12 06 2 ENTRY-CLSD-DT 100616 15 06 2
CNTRL-CODE 2 ACTN Z4 START 100601 STOP 100615 ENTLMT-MM 0.00 ENTLMT
73.32 ENTLMT-NM 0.00 DAILY-RATE 4.88800 NR-DEPN-COLA 9 JTR-LCTN JA061

51 CONUS COLA* ENTRY-OPEN-DT 100101 02 05 1 CNTRL-CODE 0 ACTN 04 START
100101 ENTLMT-MM 31.50 ENTLMT 63.00 ENTLMT-NM 63.00 ACCOM 1 ZIP-CODE
20001



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- Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)
 - Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA)
 - Moving In Housing Allowance (MIHA)
 - Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)

Allowances



Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)



Types

- With Dependents-based on the # of cmd sponsored dependents at the member's OCONUS PDS; up to 5
- Without Dependents-when service member has not dependents at primary duty station (PDS)
- Reduced-paid to member when both gov't quarters and DFAC are available

UCFR Codes

- 9 rate for personnel living in the barracks (reduced rate)
- 0 rate for unaccompanied personnel living in BEQ, BOQ, and off post
- 1-5 rate for personnel with command sponsored dependents overseas

General

- Paid on a daily basis—actual number of days in month / days OCONUS
- Reduced/Stopped effective the 31st consecutive day of leave in CONUS for member or dependents
- DA 4187s and respective supporting documents necessary to process changes
- Birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption, ERD, 30+day visit to states, etc.
- Submit changes promptly!



Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA)



■ General

- Authorization to start, stop, or change OHA must be submitted on a DD Form 2367 "Individual Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Report."
- Rates depend on rank, location, and whether you have dependents.

■ BAH/OHA Differences

- BAH is CONUS, OHA is OCONUS.
- BAH is a flat rate based on rank, dependency status, and PDS zip code
- OHA is a cost-reimbursement based entitlement



MIHA and TLA



■ MIHA

- A one time payment; exists to defray the move-in costs associated with occupying private sector leased/owned housing covered under the OHA program.

■ TLA

- Provided to partially reimburse a Soldier for the more than normal expenses incurred while occupying temporary lodging.
- Authorization for an OCONUS PDS assignment should not exceed 60 days.
- The Housing office is the approving authority
- Upon departure should not exceed the last 10 days before the Soldier departs on a PCS Order.



Questions?????